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SPORTS | Like father, like son

Jerry and Ben Finkbeiner prove a potent coaching tandem for the USU women's basketball team

see PAGE 5

NEWS | London Attacked

Officials are calling an attack on British Parliament Tuesday a "terrorist incident."

see PAGE 2



STUDENT LIFE | USU Barbershop

These ladies know how to snip, clip and trim for any size of Aggie.

see PAGE 3

# THE REBIRTH OF DEAD WEEK

By Alison Berg  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

The Utah State University Student Association (USUSA) Academic Senate has spent the past two years working to improve an initiative which has been in place — but not enforced — for more than five years.

No-test week, which is also known as “dead week,” is supposed to take place the week before finals and give students a week of extra time to study. However, for many students, it has not fulfilled this role.

Alex Hardy, a sophomore studying English, said she has had several tests during the week before finals that have caused significant stress in her life.

“I just felt like it was too much at the end,” she said.

Ryan Bentall, the USUSA executive vice president and leader of the Academic Senate, said although a policy has always been in place asking professors to refrain from giving exams, the policy makes exceptions for papers, projects and weekly chapter quizzes.

In addition, Bentall said “even though it is currently in place, we have heard a lot of complaints from students about it not being enforced,” which is why the Academic Senate has been making strides to legitimize and enforce the policy.

Heather Lieber, the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences senator, said the efforts began two years ago and “we didn’t want all of their efforts to go to waste,” which is partially why this year’s Academic Senate chose to continue the effort.

However, Lieber said the Academic Senate also received a lot of complaints from students about having tests and projects the week before finals.

To receive feedback from students, the 2015-16 academic senators sent out a university-wide survey with several questions asking students if

they felt the no-test week policy was being enforced and how they would like to change it.

Based on over 4,000 responses from the survey and collaboration with the USU Faculty Senate, a group of elected and appointed university officials and student officers, the Academic Senate proposed a policy change in

which professors cannot give projects, quizzes, tests or other assignments which are worth more than 15 percent of a student’s grade the week before finals.

“It’s a number we came up with because that’s where students start stressing out and have to put a lot of time and effort into those assignments,” Bentall said.

The new policy would prevent professors from giving projects or exams the week before finals in addition to a final or project being due the week of finals. However, it would not prevent professors from changing due dates to the week before finals if they did not require anything from students during finals week.

Anna Afoa, a senior studying pre-physical therapy, said she has had several tests the week before finals — rather than the week of finals — and she enjoyed it.

“I like to not have all my tests on the last week,” Afoa said.

While the Academic Senate began efforts to make this change, they felt it was important to collaborate with faculty members and ensure the proposed solution benefited everyone.

“If we presented something to faculty that they felt infringed upon their academic freedom then it wouldn’t succeed at all,” said Heather Lieber, the USUSA College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences senator.

Similarly, Jacie Rex, the USUSA College of Humanities and Social Sciences senator, said she thinks the change will be easier to make because USUSA collaborated with faculty members.



GRAPHIC BY Emmalee Olsen

see “No Test” PAGE 7

## USU professor hosts Salt Lake Comic Con panel about diversity in media

By Miranda Lorenc  
STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

Along with the colorful costumes, the geeky merchandise and the celebrity guests, the Salt Lake Comic Con FanX also featured panels on various topics about media or artistic expression.

Two of these panels were hosted by Utah State University’s Debra Jenson, an assistant professor in the department of journalism and communication. Jenson hosted an 18+ panel on the feminist themes found in the horror movie “The Witch” and a panel about the importance of diversity in media such as movies and comic books.

Other than talking about favorite fandoms such as “Dr. Who” and “Harry Potter,” Jenson said the driving force behind the topics she focuses on in her panels is her belief that media helps people understand who they are, what their place is in the world and what their possibilities are.

“If we don’t see ourselves portrayed in ways that are powerful and intelligent and compassionate and strong and as leaders,” Jensen said, “then we tend to not to see ourselves as that, and other people don’t see us as that.”

Another reason topics like this are important, Jensen said, was that these conversations can get back to creators and artists who then make



PHOTOS BY Katelyn Mahnken

Debra Jenson, an associate professor in journalism and communication at USU, moderated a panel about the importance of diversity in media at 2017’s FanX event in Salt Lake City on Saturday.

work that reflect these ideas. At larger cons, they get back to major creators and more content can hopefully change for the better.

“Comics are for everyone, this is for everyone and my culture is not represented nearly enough in nerdism,” said Michelle Wilde, an Aggie alumnus. “It would be great to see more of it, but bringing it up in venues like this is exactly how we drive that force to create a

space for marginalized communities, and so I really appreciate that.”

Wilde is Hispanic and said she loves how Jenson’s panels bring the problematic aspects of nerd culture to light because a lot of people gloss over or ignore them.

“There’s a lot of problems, especially with minorities or feminism or that sort of things within nerd culture and a lot of times people just

want to ignore it,” she said, “because it’s not fun and it’s not happy and shiny and rainbows all the time. And it’s something she brings to light and she does it in a fun way so that we can discuss it without getting all ‘Hulk smash’ over the whole thing.”

The main problem when talking about diversity

see “FanX” PAGE 7



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NATION AND WORLD

# 5 dead in vehicle, knife attack at British Parliament

By Jill Lawless, Paisley Dodds and Danica Kirka  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP) — A knife-wielding man went on a deadly rampage in the heart of Britain’s seat of power Wednesday, plowing a car into pedestrians on London’s Westminster Bridge before stabbing a police officer to death inside the gates of Parliament. Five people were killed, including the assailant, and 40 others were injured in what Prime Minister Theresa May condemned as a “sick and depraved terrorist attack.”

Lawmakers, lords, staff and visitors were locked down after the man was shot by police within the perimeter of Parliament, just yards (meters) from entrances to the building itself and in the shadow of the iconic Big Ben clock tower. He died, as did three pedestrians on the bridge, and the police officer.

A doctor who treated the wounded from the bridge said some had “catastrophic” injuries. Three police officers, several French teenagers on a school trip, two Romanian tourists and five South Korean visitors were among the injured.



PHOTO BY AP Photo Stefan Rousseau  
An attacker is treated by emergency services outside the Houses of Parliament London, Wednesday, March 22.

Police said they were treating the attack as terrorism. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Metropolitan Police counterterrorism chief Mark Rowley said police believed there was only one attacker, “but it would be foolish to be overconfident early on.” He said an unarmed policeman, three civilians and the attacker died. Forty others, including three police officers, were injured.

Islamic extremism was suspected in the attack, Rowley said, adding that authorities believe they know the assailant’s identity but would not reveal it while the investigation was ongoing.

The threat level for international terrorism in the U.K. was already listed at severe, meaning an attack was “highly likely.”

Speaking outside 10 Downing St. after chairing a meeting of government’s emergency committee, COBRA, May said that level would not change. She said attempts to defeat British values of democracy and freedom through terrorism would fail.

“Tomorrow morning, Parliament will meet as normal,” she said. Londoners and visitors “will all move forward together, never giving in to terror and never allowing the voices of hate and evil to drive us apart.”

U.S. President Donald Trump was among

world leaders offering condolences, and in Paris, the lights of the Eiffel Tower were to be dimmed in solidarity with London.



PHOTO BY AP Photo Matt Dunham  
Emergency services staff provide medical attention close to the Houses of Parliament in London, Wednesday, March 22. London police said they are treating a gun and knife incident at Britain’s Parliament “as a terrorist incident until we know otherwise.” The Metropolitan Police said in a statement that the incident is ongoing. Officials said a man with a knife attacked a police officer at Parliament and was shot by officers. Nearby, witnesses said a vehicle struck several people on the Westminster Bridge.

London has been a target for terrorism many times over past decades. Just this weekend, hundreds of armed police took part in an exercise simulating a “marauding” terrorist attack on the River Thames.

Wednesday was the anniversary of suicide bombings in the Brussels airport and subway that killed 32 people last year, and the latest events echoed recent vehicle attacks in Berlin and Nice, France.

In the House of Commons, legislators were holding a series of votes on pensions when deputy Speaker Lindsay Hoyle announced that the sitting was being suspended and told lawmakers not to leave.

Parliament was locked down for several hours, and the adjoining Westminster subway station was shuttered.

Conservative lawmaker Tobias Ellwood, whose brother was killed in the Bali terror attack in 2002, performed first aid on the wounded police officer, who later died. About 10 yards away lay the assailant.

“I tried to stem the flow of blood and give mouth to mouth while waiting for the medics to arrive but I think he had lost too much blood,” Ellwood said. “He had multiple wounds, under the arm and in the back.”

The attack began early Wednesday afternoon as a driver in a gray SUV slammed into pedestrians on the bridge linking Parliament to the south bank of the River Thames.

Former Polish foreign minister Radek

Sikorski was in a car crossing the bridge when he heard “something like a car hitting metal sheet” and then saw people lying on the pavement.

“I saw one person who gave no signs of life. One man was bleeding from his head. I saw five people who were at least seriously injured,” Sikorski told Poland’s TVN24.

Ambulances arrived within minutes to treat people who lay scattered along the length of the bridge. One bloodied woman lay surrounded by a scattering of postcards.

Police said one injured woman was pulled from the river.

The car crashed into railings on the north side of the bridge, less than 200 yards (meters) from the entrance to Parliament. As people scattered in panic, witnesses saw a man holding a knife run toward the building.

“The whole crowd just surged around the corner by the gates just opposite Big Ben,” said witness Rick Longley. “A guy came past my right shoulder with a big knife and just started plunging it into the policeman. I have never seen anything like that. I just can’t believe what I just saw.”

The attacker managed to get past a gate into Parliament’s fenced-in New Palace Yard, a cobbled courtyard in the shadow of the Big Ben clock tower.

Daily Mail journalist Quentin Letts said a

see “Knife Attack” PAGE 7

USUSA BLOTTER

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Notes from the USUSA meeting on March 21. Meetings are held on Tuesdays at 5 p.m. in the Senate Chambers located in the Taggart Student Center, and are open to all students.

1. Dallin Johnson, this year’s executive vice president runner-up, has been appointed next year’s USUSA administrative assistant.

2. The Executive Council and Academic Senate will hold a combined meeting on April 11 to discuss budgets for next year’s USUSA officers.

3. Spencer Perry, the current USUSA public relations and marketing director, has been appointed to serve in the same position next year.

4. The Executuve Council discussed a new math placement program but did not decide whether or not it will be implemented. More information and a decision will be discussed in future meetings.

5. One of the USU student events Facebook pages has been changed to USUSA Involve-ment. The Executive Council encourages students to discuss and promote upcoming involvement opportunities on the page.

6. Mental Health Week will begin April 1.

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# FRIENDS OR FOES

## *Living with strangers*

By Savannah Lund  
STUDENT LIFE WRITER

When moving to college, it can sometimes be difficult for incoming Aggies to decide where to live. The decision between apartments or houses, on-campus or off-campus, roommates or not, can be tricky to make.

Cassie McArthur, a psychology major, said she's happy with the decisions she made regarding her living situation. She rooms with her best friend, her best friend's cousin, that cousin's best friend, the cousin's sister and then someone none of them had known before moving in.

"I basically have family living with me," McArthur said, "it's nice to be able to have that support."

However, there are still difficulties. From time to time, chores don't get done or people get annoyed with one another.

"My roommate is my best friend that I grew up with," she said, "people said that we were going to hate each other once we lived together. I feel like we have gotten closer."

McArthur said any problems found between her and her best friend get dropped fairly quickly due to how close they are. Regardless of how well she knew her roommate, she said she would do her best to become closer to her.

"You don't have to be best friends," she said, "but if you are sleeping in the same room with someone every night then you might as well become friends and make the best of it."

Expecting a living situation without tension is not something you're going to receive, even if you know someone before you move in with



GRAPHIC BY Emmalee Olsen

them.

With McArthur's living situation, people do feel left out from time to time due to how close some people are and not others. They do their best to make everyone feel as included as possible.

Hannah Simmons, an accounting major, is very fond of the girls she lives with.

"We have made a shower schedule and a chore chart on our whiteboard," Simmons said, "so there are no problems in the morning for showers and who is supposed to clean, and it works really well."

None of the girls knew each other before moving in with one another but they have all bonded since the school year began.

"We do get along," she said, "there are times we are annoyed by each other, but that's what happens when you live together."

According to Simmons, the biggest problem her roommates had was when friends stayed until late into the night and were noisy. This caused the others not to be able to sleep and created tension in their suite.

"We had a long meeting and rewrote our roommate agreements to make sure everyone knew the rules and we all agreed on them," Simmons said, "it hasn't been a problem since."

They created their own in-dorm quiet hours to follow and posted them up on the wall along with a clock. This helped both roommates and guests know how long they are welcome to

stay.

"I am rooming with five more strangers next semester," Simmons said, "and I'm super excited. It's a great way to make new friends you may never have had. They end up being your best friends."

Originally, Simmons had a lot of problems with her in-roommate. After a while, the two opened up to one another and have bonded since then.

"I think living with strangers is the best way to do it," Simmons said, "you gain so many new friends and it's an amazing experience."

Amanda Sue Pieper currently lives with three other girls, none of which she knew previously.  
see "Strangers" PAGE 4

# *The ladies behind the clippers*

By Shelby Stoor  
STUDENT LIFE SENIOR WRITER

The Taggart Student Center at Utah State University offers a wide variety of services for students. The TSC is home to the different on-campus dining options, the post office and the campus store as well as one pretty special resource - the USU Barbershop.

The USU Barbershop has been on campus for over forty years. The convenient location, low prices and great service draw many students in every day for haircuts.

Angela Nielson began working for the barbershop in June of 2009. She started out at the barbershop on campus as a result of her need for a job, but has come to love the environment in which she works.

"I like cutting hair and talking to people. Getting to know them and getting stories from them

is always fun. I'm always sharing stories with them too so we can find common ground," she said.

In a university setting, the barbershop gets a wide variety of clients each day.

"We get a few because parents bring kids in or they're going to conferences here. Then we get people who retire, but still come back to the shop," Nielson said. "We have a constant flow because of students graduating or coming in and professors leaving. We get students, administration, employees and more. They are from all over the world. Getting that is different from any other shop I've been in."

Freshman, Iain Laurence, is one USU student who chooses the barbershop in the TSC over many of the other options in the valley. Laurence goes to the barbershop because of its convenient location.

"It's on campus and there's usually no wait

time. They give haircuts for a good price," he said.

Barbershop owner, Melissa Batelaan, loves getting to see the people who come into the shop each day.

"My favorite part is the people. Just getting to know people on campus and how diverse they are. I love getting to know their culture and where they're from while I'm doing their hair," she said.

When Batelaan first came to USU last spring, she was not expecting to become the owner.

"I knew the previous owner from a family member that was friends with her. She went on vacation and I took over for her, but she actually passed away after that vacation," Batelaan said. "We were wondering what to do because we love it up here. They thought about doing away with it but it's been here for 40 plus years. So in order to not lose it, I just decided to buy it. It just

kind of landed in my lap."

Batelaan knew that there was something special about USU's barbershop from the moment she walked in the door.

"I was just going to come work up here. I came up here and fell in love with it. I've worked at another salon but this place was just different," she said.

Batelaan believes the difference between the barbershop and other salons in their ability to connect with each individual client.

"I think we try to connect on a more personal level with each individual client rather than just having it be about money," said Batelaan. "We try and engage and just get to know our customers really well. If they just want to sit in here and hang out without getting a haircut, we're totally fine with that. That's the kind of relationship we want which is different from anywhere else."

Carter Tilt is another student who takes his business to the USU barbershop. He also enjoys the convenience of the barbershop.

"They're always nice and do a good job. I've had good experiences there. It's convenient, cheap and they do a good job," he said.

Towards the back of the barbershop, a map has been hung on the wall that clients can put a pin in to 'make their mark.'

"We have this map and everybody marks it where they're from which is so fun because it gives us a visual representation of our diversity. We are one of the only barbershops that see this much diversity," said Batelaan.

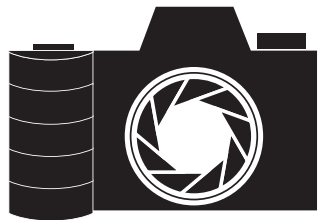
Once students leave campus for the summer, business typically slows down for the barbershop. However, they get a new group of clients that choose the barbershop over other locations in Cache Valley.

"During the summer when it is slower we get some senior citizens from Arizona. We get to be friends with the summer citizens. It's fun because we get to be know them and their life stories. They are really fun to talk to and that helps



PHOTOS BY Matthew Halton  
Kimball Henderson (Left) and Tim Barton (Right) get their haircuts at the USU Barbershop located on the first floor of the TSC.





# PHOTOGRAPHER

## SPOTLIGHT



“

This picture was taken at the Young the Giant concert in Salt Lake this February. When you shoot a concert you only have the first three songs to take pictures. Those minutes right up next to the stage are probably the most stressful and most exciting thing.

”

— Megan Nielson, Statesman Photographer

### “Strangers” FROM PAGE 3

“I really love my living situation,” Pieper said, “all of us girls get along well and we’ve become really close.”

There has been some problems with chores in her room because no one wants to do them. After a while, they will get done by someone, but there is some tension before then.

“I would definitely room again with the people I room with now,” Pieper said, “we’ve gotten to be good friends. I wouldn’t be afraid of living with other people either.”

Pieper’s advice for incoming Aggies would be to just be themselves and everything will be okay in the end.

Francisco Story only has one roommate this semester. They didn’t know each other beforehand, but now they are very good friends.

“Our living situation is not bad at all,” Story said, “he stays up late at night and I get home from work late at night so that worked out really well.”

He doesn’t ever feel any tension with his roommate and they share everything with one another — toaster, vacuums, etc.

Taylor Baldwin is a freshman this year who is rooming with five other girls, none of whom she knew previously.

“I get along with my roommates really well,” Baldwin said, “and there’s no drama.”

The only thing Baldwin doesn’t like is sharing a room with someone that has a different sleep schedule than she does.

“It’s definitely hard to get alone time,” Baldwin said, “sometimes I’ll just drive around Main Street by myself to get away.

In the future, she said she would feel nervous about rooming with strangers again. She feels as if she lucked out this semester with her roommates and isn’t so sure it would happen again.

“My advice would be to get out and do things,” Baldwin said, “have at least one thing you want to do each day.”

A freshman this semester who wished to remain anonymous said she has not had such luck with her roommates.

She has her own room, but shares with four other girls in her suite.

“I don’t really like my living situation currently because my roomies don’t really talk to me at all,” she said, “when they need to tell me something about chores they leave a passive-aggressive sticky note on my door or in the hall.”

She came up to Utah State in order to be closer to some of her best friends that are currently attending school here. She said this may be the reason why her roommates don’t get along with her as well as they do with one another.

“I’ve tried being friendly a lot,” she said, “but I don’t really get much in response; usually just a

small ‘hi’ back or just ignoring me.”

She spends most of her time with her best friends because she doesn’t feel welcome in her dorm.

“When I’m actually at my dorm I stay in my room as much as possible and avoid running into any roommates,” she said, “they never really explained much to me when I first moved in about the way they run things around here.”

At one point, there was no toilet paper in the bathroom for two months because no one was willing to put any in. She thinks it was her turn to put it in the bathroom, but no one told her.

“I feel like they hate me,” she said, “I have my own room with just an extra empty bed and that makes it even harder to connect with any of them. They all knew each other and hung out together. I basically just feel like an outsider.”

She said rooming with strangers works a lot better for those who move in during the fall semester. Coming up for the spring doesn’t help with gaining the friendships everyone else creates during the previous semester.

“One of my roommates is actually pretty rude to me,” she said, “I say ‘hi’ to her when I’m out on campus and she just glares at me. I don’t think I’m going to room with strangers again.”

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### “Barbershop” FROM PAGE 3

us keep business going in the summer,” said Nielson.

As far as style of hair cuts goes, the women who work in the barbershop are willing to do most anything.

“I have a favorite haircut from the 40s. But I like doing a variety of types and haircuts. I’ve seen a lot of fads come and go, but there are still the classics,” said Nielson.

The USU Barbershop offers haircuts for much cheaper prices than most quality salons or barbershops around the valley. A typical haircut is only thirteen dollars.

There’s no question for the women who work in the barbershop about why they love being at USU. For them, getting to interact with the students and other clients is the best part of their week.

“People here are just amazing. I love the people here. Whether they talk a lot or they’re silent, I have not had a bad experience. Not one day have I walked home saying that I hate what I do. Every day I can walk out of here with a smile and that is thanks to the people.”

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# ALL IN THE FAMILY

*Meet father and son coaches Jerry and Ben Finkbeiner*



PHOTO BY Matt Halton

USU women's basketball father and son coaches Jerry and Ben Finkbeiner watch from the sidelines at the USU vs UNLV game.

By Paige Zamora  
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

Ben Finkbeiner was the coach's kid. When Ben was in third grade, his father, Jerry, coached at Southern Nazarene University. As Jerry oversaw the Thunder Cats' practices, Ben would hang on his father's pants pocket as the two marched around the court. He observed the schemes and the systems. The rotations and plays. The defensive and offensive gameplans. When asked, and even when not, Ben would offer his own coaching advice from time to time. "One of my earliest memories was at SNU," Jerry Finkbeiner said. "He was pretty young, but he sat on the bench with me then. I remember there was a couple times during games when he would say, 'Dad, that's the wrong sub to make,' or 'You should run this play.'" To this day, Ben still offers the same kind of advice, but now he does it as Jerry's assistant coach at Utah State University. Over the years, the two have grown accustomed to sharing the same sideline. At Jerry's first head-coaching stop — Oral Roberts University — the bench discussions that initially began in Ben's childhood, proved to be crucial. In Tulsa, Oklahoma, Ben had assumed the direc-


tor of basketball operations position for the Golden Eagles' women's basketball team, the very same team his father now coached. Ben's grandfather, Myron, was a coach for the team just a year prior to the two's arrival. All three now sat on the same bench for Jerry's first year at the Golden Eagles' helm. In that year, the team made its first NCAA Tournament appearance in the school's history. After graduating from ORU in 2006, Ben went on to the University of Central Oklahoma to earn his master's degree and work as a graduate assistant for the men's basketball team there. He then joined the staff at the New Mexico Junior College women's basketball team where he worked as an assistant coach. Following his time at NMJC, he spent three seasons at conference opponent to USU, Boise State University. He coached several Broncos to post-season All-Mountain West honors while coaching there. When the job position opened up at Utah State under his father, Ben wasn't in a position to look for a job, but realized an opportunity greater than a career move for both him and his family. "There's no doubt about it," Ben Finkbeiner said. "I had a great thing going on at Boise State, but it was definitely an opportunity to have my boys here around grandparents and to be able to work with my dad."

That was 2014, just two years after Jerry was hired as head coach. "I really appreciate him leaving a really stable situation to come to a program that's in building stages," Jerry Finkbeiner said. John Hartwell, the athletics director of Utah State, sees a rare value in this father-son coaching combination. "While family combinations don't always work from a coaching perspective," Hartwell said, "I think their relationship really brings an overall family feel to our women's basketball program which I think is really helpful." The two have found an interesting dynamic in working together, where they are learning from each other's past coaching opportunities. For Ben, his father's temperament has rubbed off on him through the years, which is something he said is priceless. "Usually your coaching temperament can be set by who you learn from early in your career," Ben said. "But long before I started my career mine was already set because I have observed him as a coach my whole life." Jerry has seen an equally influential difference in his coaching from his son. "I'm typically a zone guy," Jerry said. "But I've

see "Finkbeiner" PAGE 6




PHOTO BY Matt Halton  
Assistant coach Ben Finkbeiner yells from the bench at the USU vs UNLV game.

A male tennis player in a grey t-shirt and dark shorts is captured in a dynamic pose, swinging his racket to hit a green tennis ball.

# MEN'S TENNIS

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A male tennis player in a dark blue t-shirt and white shorts is shown in a ready position, holding his racket and looking towards the ball.



# Men’s tennis headed for conference play, favored for MW crown

By Daniel Hansen  
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

The Utah State Men’s Tennis team continues to climb to unprecedented heights for the program, as the latest ITA team rankings have the Aggies ranked as the 42nd best team in the nation, re-breaking the mark for highest ranking in team history that was set with last week’s rankings.

The Aggies will again take their national ranking into battle this weekend while also opening their defense of their 2016 Mountain West Conference Regular Season title by facing San Diego State on Saturday.

When asked earlier in the season about his team possibly competing for the Mountain West title, head coach James Wilson lacked no confidence. “I certainly believe that we have a team that’s capable of winning the Mountain West,” Wilson said. “We’re just going to take it one step at a time. I definitely feel like we have a team that could compete for it. We’ll just see what happens.”

The opportunity certainly appears attainable. At 12-7, the Aggies post the best overall record in the Mountain West, despite having played four teams this season currently ranked in the top 20 in the country. Utah State is also the only MW school to be ranked in the top 50 at any point this season.

Utah State also boasts the most MW Player of the Week awards among any team in the con-

ference. Junior Jaime Barajas, also the returning MW Player of the Year, along with senior Jack Swindells and sophomore Samuel Serrano have all received the honorary recognition so far this season. Serrano and Barajas have both won MW Player of the Week twice and Swindells once for a total of five. No other team in the conference has more than two.

This Saturday’s match against San Diego State gives the team an excellent opportunity to pick up where last season’s conference play left off, while also exacting an amount of revenge. Last year’s Aggie squad took the regular season title with a 7-1 record. That one loss? On the road to this very San Diego State team.

This year, however, the Aggies will enjoy the home court advantage. That advantage has been huge in recent years. The Aggies are undefeated at home this season and have lost only twice in the past three years when playing within the friendly confines of Cache Valley. Sophomore Jonas Meier elaborated on the home crowd’s significance earlier this season after winning a third set to clinch a match at home versus BYU.

“They did like 90% of the work,” Maier said. “Without them I don’t know how it would have been ... I had no doubt that I wouldn’t lose because I knew I had my team and I had the crowd behind me.”

The challenge for Utah State this year, however, will be their conference road schedule, as the Aggies will face second and third place



PHOTO BY **Kyle Todecheene**  
Junior Andrew Nakajima competes at the USU vs Idaho home match Sunday.

teams from last season, Boise State and UNLV respectively, away from Logan. The Aggies gained their first victory over Boise State since 1986 last year, with Barajas clinching the match at home with a come-from-behind victory in the third set to give the Aggies the win, 4-3. Against UNLV, the Aggies were able to clinch a share of the regular season conference title with a 4-2 win before winning the outright title one week later.

The Aggies will be favored to take home the MW crown again this year, a by-product of their

national ranking. The first step in achieving that goal will be a victory on Saturday against last season’s fourth-place finisher in the conference. Utah State takes on San Diego State at either the Sports Academy or on the outdoor courts on USU campus, dependent on weather. The match will begin at 1:30 pm.

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# USU’s Riley Plogger perfect in 11-2 win over UVU

By Logan Jones  
SPORTS CONTENT MANAGER

Lightning shortened Utah State softball’s Wednesday doubleheader to just a single outing against Utah Valley, but only after the Aggies blasted the Wolverines in their first contest 11-2. A season-high four Utah State home runs screamed their way out of LaRee & LeGrand Johnson Field before the inclement weather cancelled the remainder of game 2 in just the second inning.

“We’re hitting really well right now,” said USU head coach Steve Johnson. “The team has a lot of confidence at the plate, especially our middle hitters. When one gets going, they start feeding off each other and it can be a pretty daunting lineup.”

Freshman Kellie White, currently the second-sharpest pitcher in the Mountain West with a 1.73 ERA (teammate April Brown tops the rankings with 1.66), walked off the mound after pitching a complete game boasting six strikeouts, zero walks and just three hits.

“Kellie has done a great job all year and has found a pitch that is really working for her,” Johnson said. “It was great on her part to come out and get the win.”

White wasn’t the only newcomer turning heads — freshman outfielder Riley Plogger terrorized the Wolverines with a flawless afternoon, smacking two home runs for five RBIs on 3-of 3 turns at the plate. Seniors Sarina Jaramillo and Victoria Saucedo contributed a combined 5-of-7 afternoon.

Utah Valley scored once in the top of the first, but promptly gave the lead away to solid hitting by Jaramillo and Saucedo, along with a nifty stolen base from junior Jazmin Clarke. The game would only remain close for another inning. In the bottom of the third,



Saucedo crossed the plate following a Jaramillo single just before Plogger knocked a three-run shot over the fence. Seconds later, Senior Sydney Hart stepped in and added a solo home run — the lead now a much more comfortable 7-1.

The Aggies notched 13 hits in the first game of the day, committing three errors and allowing just two runs. Plans for the rest of the day were spoiled by an incoming storm. Utah State returns to action Friday, March 24, at 5 p.m. (MT) against the Nevada Wolf Pack.

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PHOTOS BY **Megan Nielson**  
(Above) Kellie White pitches against visiting UVU Wednesday afternoon. White struck out six without a single walk in a complete game against the Wolverines. (Below) Senior Victoria Saucedo eyes the plate from first base. Saucedo batted 3-of-4 Wednesday, including a home run.

## “Finkbeiner” FROM PAGE 4

sold out our zone and we’ve committed to man and that’s really a reflection of Ben’s ability to teach it.”

Both of their adjustments seem to be working. This past season marks the third year the father and son have coached together for Utah State. The team set a new record for most overall and home wins in school history. Jerry said the success they’ve witnessed was in large part due to recruitment — the function overseen by his son.

The Aggies started the season with the youngest roster and starting lineup in the conference. It was comprised of the athletes recruited by Ben

Finkbeiner. “College coaching is all about talent around you, you can only coach-up so much,” Jerry said. “You’ve got to have kids who can make shots and make good decisions. So it’s a testament to the quality of recruiting that Ben has shown leadership in.” Hartwell said it’s much more than just skill that Ben and the recruitment staff he oversees have brought to the program. “Ultimately coaches are judged on their wins and losses on the court,” Hartwell said. “But what they’ve been able to do in terms of the high character of young women they’ve recruited into this program is a reflection of the entire staff. I think

they’re real assets, not just for Utah State athletics but for Cache Valley as well.” Between recruitment, individual games, practices and building up a winning program, both Finkbeiners find enough time for family. When they get together as a family, Jerry said it’s all about the kids. The conversation revolves around the grandkids — as long as the team is winning. One grandkid in particular — Ben’s oldest son — shows potential to continue to Finkbeiner coaching legacy through a fourth generation. “He’s kind of like I was as a kid,” Ben said. “He just loves to be at the basketball games and following me around the court.”

Whether or not it will continue into a fourth generation, the time the Finkbeiners have together with the Aggie women’s basketball team is an opportunity of a lifetime, as respected coaches and family, one they’re happy to take while they still have the time. “I’ve heard that when you’re on your deathbed you don’t wish you made more money, you wish you had spent more time with somebody,” Jerry said. “We both make a living that supports our family, but that’s the value of this living right now — between father and son.”

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# Make America Cooperate Again

**JOSHURA HORTIN**  
—Joshua Hortin is a news writer. He is a graduate student majoring in civil and environmental engineering. He is interested in politics, especially when environmental issues gets involved. Joshua has no free time because of his thesis, but if he did, he would probably play Pokemon Go, read, and hang out with friends.  
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Washington, D. C. is spinning out of control. No, I'm not talking about all the drama surrounding the Trump administration. I'm talking about spin (v): "to give (a news story or other information) a particular interpretation, particularly a favorable one."  
Politicians and interest groups have long loved to spin stories to their advantage. Some people complain that the mainstream media does the same, but I'm not going to focus on the media here. I want to look at politicians and the words that come straight from them.  
Spinning recently intensified when the Congressional Budget Office (a nonpartisan office that evaluates the impacts of proposed legislation so that legislators are better informed when voting) released its findings on the American Health Care Act (AHCA) — Republicans' bill to repeal and replace "Obamacare."  
Twitter (and other social media outlets) lit up. "Our bill lowers premiums by 10%!" "Reduces the deficit by \$337 billion!" "Lowers taxes by \$883 billion!" Republicans screamed.

"#Trumpcare plan will rip health coverage away from 24 million people!" "Premiums 20% higher by 2018!" "\$880 billion cut from Medicaid!" Democrats shouted.  
Comically, some of these tweets landed right next to each other (see picture).  
So who's right?  
It's a trick question: Both sides are correct, at least to a degree. The report really says all of what you just read. But listening to only one side would make you think that the AHCA was either the best or worst thing ever.  
I've learned that in a conflict, the truth typically lies somewhere in the middle, and that's exactly what is going on here. Neither side is telling the whole truth, which is that the AHCA will have mixed effects on our country.  
What if we tried to get to the heart of the problem, rather than simply shoving one-party bills through Congress based on which party holds the majority? What if lawmakers acknowledged that Republicans and Democrats emphasize different values, and that through compromise, both sides can have a portion of what they want?  
Here's how it might go down. Republicans generally favor limited government, personal freedom, and lower taxes - which is why Obamacare was so galling to them. Democrats generally favor broad public access to services based on leveling the playing fields of gender, racial, and socioeconomic inequality— - which is why the AHCA is so problematic to them. Could there be a way to create a program that is both minimally invasive and at least

tax-neutral, yet also expands public access to healthcare and closes loopholes that block access?  
I'm no policy expert, but I think there's a good chance. However, we won't know until at least two opposing lawmakers get together and try.  
Congress wasn't always so partisan. A 2015 study published in the journal PLOS One titled "The Rise of Partisanship and Super-Cooperators in the U.S. House of Representatives" gives a fascinating visualization of the partisan split from 1949-2011. It also points out that despite the "exponential" rise in partisanship "with no sign of abating or reversing," a very small group of representatives have resisted the trend and are dubbed "super-cooperators."  
This is where we start. Lawmakers need to cooperate and compromise, even if it means that they don't get all of what they wanted. We can help by electing individuals who are more moderate than partisan, and by encouraging our current leaders to talk to each other.  
We can remain partisan if we like. We can choose to continue hating or fearing the other party. But the cost will be continued gridlock and our country moving at a snail's pace behind everyone else on the pressing issues.  
Or we can choose to care. We can have the courage to talk politely about difficult issues. We can resist the urge to pick politicians who score cheap political points against your perceived enemies.  
The future of our country depends on it.

# Talking about acceptance

**DILLAN PASSMORE**  
Dillan Passmore is a student life staff write. He never sleeps because sleep is the cousin of death. He's motto is behind the walls of intelligence, life is defined. He thinks it's a crime when he's in a New York state of mind.  
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@dirtyghettopass

Talking about acceptance  
People like those who are similar to them, we generally form friendships and communities with those who have homogenous or similar characteristics, experiences and interests as us. In those communities, cultures form, and within social conversations we can talk about generalizations of the Black culture, Mormon culture, Deaf culture, the Latino community, LGBT community, western ideals, southern tendencies, etc.  
We live in a world of increasing complexity. The internet allows for greater social interaction and the introduction of more and more diverse cultures in one's life. To assume that one can live in solely within their own cultural bubble, in this day and age, would be rather foolish.  
It can be difficult being introduced to different cultures and ways of life. Quite often, we believe that an alien community might change our way of lives negatively. That there will be a loss of identity, degrading of morals and values, or even the fear of physical harm.  
Recently, my writing for the Statesman has brought me in closer contact with the LGBT

community. A community that can be found at the center of much controversy both on the national and local level.  
I became interested in the topic of the community after a letter to the editor was published in the Statesman regarding disagreement, acceptance and the LGBT community. After reading the article and the reaction to the letter, I began to seriously reflect on what it meant to truly accept our fellowmen and the conversation that USU student's were having about it.  
I don't claim that I have a complete grasp on the LGBT community, or any community for that matter, thus some of my insights might be incomplete. Also this topic is rather complicated, and I'm unable to include all of my thoughts in one article. If you have any questions about my work or my thoughts please feel free to contact me.  
Though my thoughts revolve primarily around recent interaction with the LGBT community, the principles for accepting and tolerating are universal.  
Differences between cultures, stereotypes, and individuals  
I mentioned beforehand that we as people congregate into communities of like interests; it is important to note that those communities are made up people. Everybody is endowed with the ability to think and reason, and act ultimately for themselves. Though those thoughts and actions might be influenced and swayed by opinion leaders and friends, everybody is ultimately their own master and responsible for their own actions.  
Just because people associate and are apart of

different cultures and communities, doesn't mean that that culture is that person or that person is a the community.  
People often try to stereotype others, forgetting that people are complex and aren't simply just one thing.  
Stereotyping, in my opinion, is a form of fear. We have, or hear of, negative experiences or ideas that a person in a group has and in order to try to protect ourself we assign negative traits to that group. We are offensive. We close people out, shut them down and gradually descend towards hate: a poison that hurts not only the group but oneself.  
Sometimes people are rude or shortsighted, they are insensitive, tactless, intolerant, hateful, loud, in-your-face. Yes it might seem like a certain group is hateful, but that hate starts on an individual level.  
As I was researching for my articles, I interviewed and talked to a lot of students, all who had different opinions about the LGBT. There was intolerance on both ends of the spectrum, people on both sides who were hateful towards groups that didn't agree 100% with them.  
It doesn't matter if you affiliate with a group that teaches acceptance, overcoming intolerance is a personal conquest. Yes, hate and intolerance is a mountain, but its made up of individual stones.  
We can't assume that people hate us because they belong to a group we disagree with, nor should we assume that a group is hateful because of hateful people we've met.  
Creating a culture of respect  
\*To read the rest of the article, visit [USUStatesman.com](#).



## Letters to the editor

1

Letters should be limited to 400 words. All letters may be shortened, or rejected for reasons of good taste, redundancy or volume of similar letters.

2

Letters must be topic-oriented. They may not be directed toward any individuals. Any letter directed to a specific individual may be edited or not printed.

3

No anonymous letters will be published. Writers must sign all letters and include a phone number or email address, as well as a student identification number (none of which is published).

4

Letters representing groups — or more than one individual — must have a singular representative clearly stated, with all necessary identification information.

5

Writers must wait 21 days before submitting successive letters -- no exceptions.

6

The Statesman editors reserve the right to not print every letter to the editor. But all letters will be published online.

7

Letters can be hand-delivered or mailed to The Statesman the TSC, Room 118, or can be emailed to [statesman@aggiemail.usu.edu](mailto:statesman@aggiemail.usu.edu), or click [www.utahstatesman.com](http://www.utahstatesman.com) for more letter guidelines and a box to submit letters.



B

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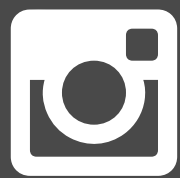
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C

CALENDAR | MARCH 23-MARCH 26  
ADD YOUR EVENT AT [USUSTATESMAN.COM/EVENTS](http://USUSTATESMAN.COM/EVENTS)

## THURSDAY, MARCH 23

<b>Coding Club</b> North Logan City Library Free, 3:30 p.m.	<b>BFA Exhibit</b> Old Main Hill Free, 11:00 a.m.	<b>Enso Quartet</b> Old Main Hill Free, 7: 30 p.m.	<b>Helicon West</b> 225 North Main Street Free, 7:00 p.m.
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## FRIDAY, MARCH 24

<b>Cache Valley Home and Garden Show</b> 2825 N 200 E North Logan Free	<b>Opera Scenes</b> USU 7:30 p.m.	<b>Story Time</b> North Logan City Library Free, 11 a.m.	<b>Senior Bingo</b> 675 East Main Street
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## SATURDAY, MARCH 25

<b>Indoor Volleyball Tournament</b> 695 W 1700 S 9 a.m.	<b>More than puppy love: The roles of animals in our lives and in therapy</b> USU 10 a.m.	<b>Cache Singles Fireside</b> Willow Park Church 7 p.m.	<b>Brothers Brimm with The Treebeard Trio</b> 30 Federal Ave. \$10-\$12, 7:30 p.m.
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## SUNDAY, MARCH 26

Cache Singles Fireside  
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